

Application No. 10/008,945
Amendment dated: August 14, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated: May 14, 2003

MTS-3285US

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 10-16 are newly added.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takeno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,882,407). Claims 2-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeno.

Takeno discloses an apparatus used for applying an electrode piling agent onto both sides of an electrode sheet 23. Electrode sheet 23 is moved between a pair of die elements 25 and 27. The electrode piling agent is supplied into the pair of die elements 25 and 27, thereby allowing the electrode piling agent to be applied to both sides of electrode sheet 23. (See, e.g., Takeno abstract and Figure 4).

Applicants' invention, as recited by amended claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by Takeno, for example:

... processing a metal foil to include at least one of a plurality of concavities and convexities, thereby forming a current collector having a thickness larger than a thickness of the unprocessed metal foil...

For example, the method of producing electrodes recited in claim 1 includes a step of processing a metal foil to include at least one of a plurality of concavities and convexities. The processed metal foil forms a current collector having a thickness larger than a thickness of an unprocessed metal foil. This feature is neither disclosed or suggested by Takeno.

On June 10, 2003, Applicants representative contacted the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application to discuss proposed amended claim 1 (which is now amended claim1). Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the opportunity provided to Applicants' representative to discuss the subject application with the Examiner. During the discussion with the Examiner, Applicants' representative argued that Takeno does not disclose the processing step recited in amended claim 1. The Examiner indicated that, in any event, an additional search may possibly be conducted in order to confirm the patentability of amended claim 1.

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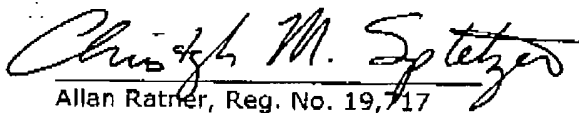
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Accordingly, in the absence of any relevant art being located in any search conducted by the Examiner, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above. Claims 6, 10, and 17-18, while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to those recited above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 6, 10, and 17-18 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above. Dependent claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11-16 include all of the features of their respective independent claims (i.e., claims 1, 6, or 10) from which they depend, either directly or indirectly. Thus, claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11-16 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia

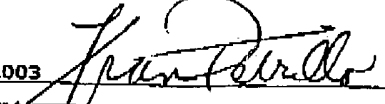


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